(b) if not, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to give such benefits to ex-BSF personnel. if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) to (d) BSF personnel retire at the age of 55 years whereas Army personnel retire at a comparitively younger age. As such they do not enjoy the status of ex-servicemen and benefits like reservation which are meant for the rehabilitation of ex-servicemen cannot be extended to ex-BSF personnel.

Withdrawal of economic blockade by Jharkhand Mukti Morcha

714. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Jharkhand Mukti Morcha recently accounted its willingness to withdraw its indefinite economic blockade in South Bihar. if a special session of the State Assembly was convened by certain targeted dates to consider the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha Bill; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of the Central Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. M. SAYEED): (a) The Government has no such information.

(b) Does not arise.

Investigation into fire accident in Paschim Vihar

715. CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in a MIG flat of Paschim Vihar in New Delhi on 8th November, 1993, two kids and parents were burnt alive;

(b) if so, whether police have made any investigation in the matter; and

(c) what are the findings of the investigation so made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. M. SAYEED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) On receipt of information in the early hours of 8.11.1993 about blast having taken place near house number GH 9/500, Paschim Vihar, the police officials rushed to the spot and found that the outer wall of the drawing room had fallen and the house was on fire. The fire brigade also reached the place. Four dead bodies were found there and a case u/s 436/304-A IPC was registered and investigation initiated. The post-mortem of the dead bodies revealed the cause of death as burns. An excessive presence of Kerosene Oil vapour in the closed room had got deliberately flashed by fire (either deliberate or accidental) which eventually led to the explosion.

Bugging of phones

716. SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the Times of India dated 18th October, 1993 wherein the Chief Election Commissioner has accused Government of bugging phones; and

(b) if so, what is Government reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b) The Government is aware of the news item. No telephone of the Chief Election Commissioner was being monitored or tapped.